

Utah Department of Agriculture and Food

1000-Day Plan

Strategy #1 - Enhance Utah's life quality and economic viability

A safe food supply is the basis for health and prosperity. The department's mission is to "Protect and Promote Utah Agriculture and food." Food safety, public health and consumer protection is a critical and essential function of state government. In order to accomplish this mission, with increased population and industry growth, we are identifying ways and means to fund the regulatory functions of the department. In addition, we continue to educate the consuming public on the importance of agriculture and the value of maintaining a viable agriculture industry.

Action Step:

1. Increase on-farm bio-security through.
 - i. Training ranchers, farmers, agricultural technicians, and inspectors on the importance of using good bio-security measures.
 - ii. Identifying essential elements of an on-farm bio-security kit and implementing its use.
2. Increase disease surveillance and monitoring of livestock, poultry and fish populations to prevent the spread of animal borne diseases. This will be accomplished by:
 - i. Implement rules pertaining to the movement and testing of domestic elk to prevent the spread of CWD (Chronic Wasting Disease) among domestic and wild deer and elk.
 - ii. Train employees in the area of domestic and foreign animal disease recognition and control.
 - iii. Improve and implement homeland security.
3. Protect high-quality farmland through the Critical Agricultural Land Conservation Fund.
 - i. Conserve an average of 100 acres a year of high quality farmland.
4. Mitigate drought effects with increasing ARDL irrigation improvement projects.
 - i. 30% water conservation since program was initiated.
5. Promote Utah's Olympic Environmental and Public Health branding Message, "Where Life and Landscape Connect" on promotional material, mailings and marketing initiatives.
6. Protect public health through increased pesticide safety
 - i. Increase pesticide ground water sampling to statewide
 - ii. Expand Worker Protection Standards to agricultural greenhouses
 - iii. Expand pesticide endangered species protection program
7. Review existing state codes and identify areas for update and change to allow for establishing a fee based registration/inspection program.
8. Establish a restricted fund account, through service fees, to fund critical public health responsibilities, while not diminishing existing General Fund base.

9. Educate and inform the public about the department's values which are:
AGRICULTURE means a SAFE FOOD SUPPLY; AGRICULTURE means a CLEAN, HEALTHY and FUNCTIONAL ENVIRONMENT; AGRICULTURE offers an HONORABLE PROFESSION.
 - i. Each of our publications will incorporate at least one of the department's values.
10. Ensure a safe food product through the implementation of farm to consumer "branded" products with the use of:
 - i. Implementation of UCHAP – Utah Cattle Health Assurance Program
 - ii. Continued implementation of the Utah Egg Quality Assurance Program (UEQAP)
 - iii. Development of GIS tracking system which identifies location of resources, incidents and "at risk" populations.
 - iv. Improve electronic advancement and technology by equipping and training staff on the use of computers and electronic technology.
 - v. Use the principles of HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point) based inspection programs.
11. Improve Utah's environment by encouraging water & soil conservation, and providing technical assistance and incentives.
 - i. Maintain conservation partnerships with public and private land owners.
 - ii. Implement more AFO/CAFO grants and conservation and development loans.

Strategy #2 - Invest in people

Utah has a well-educated and well-trained workforce and appropriate compensation is critical to maintain the expertise and knowledge base of highly trained employees.

Action Step:

1. Work with DHRM in classifying employee positions appropriately and working with the legislative budget process to obtain necessary funding for compensation.

Strategy #3 - Develop Utah as a center for technology investment, employment and entrepreneurship

The department will look at opportunities to utilize eGovernment and expand electronic services within department programs and adapt to new technological advancements in order to more effectively accomplish the mission of the department.

Action Step:

1. Expand on-line services for department licensing and registration and implement usage of credit card as a means of payment.
 - i. Online customer services via the Internet 24/7
 - ii. Online registration and licensing (ie. pesticide, bedding and quilted clothing, and, etc).

2. Acquire laboratory equipment that uses new technology to reduce hazardous chemical usage and increase laboratory efficiencies. Also investigate areas to improve statewide laboratory capabilities.
 - i. Relocating the Provo based USU Extension Lab
 - ii. Obtain lab accreditation at all state-operated labs
3. Expand department's computer capabilities to conduct inspections, capturing inspection data and downloading information to department database. This will eliminate the need for double entry of inspection data and will reduce paperwork and file space.
4. Technology will allow the Public Information Office to communicate directly and quickly with the public and agricultural producers.
 - i. Offer newsmakers' sound bites on the department's Internet web page.
5. Permanently establish the department's Olympic communications plan as the department's emergency communications policy.
 - i. Hold frequent State Emergency Response Team (SERT) / Agriculture Leadership Response Team (ALRT) meetings to share important department information.
6. Develop a high tech emergency response unit, capable of traveling to the site of a foreign animal disease, natural disaster or bio-terrorism activity where an incident command center could be established to contain and control the problem. By:
 - i. Equipping an emergency response disease trailer
 - ii. Preparing an emergency response plan and establishing a communications command post.
7. Enhance Utah's Brand Image and Promoting Agricultural products by:
 - i. Creating Product of Utah stores to showcase Utah Ag products
 - ii. Promoting Utah products at national and international food shows
 - iii. Hosting national and international trade delegations
 - iv. Securing federal specialty crop grants from USDA
 - v. Continued use of Market Access Program (MAP) funds to generate foreign export of Ag. products
8. Upgrade computer, LAN and WAN resources to streamline efficiencies and better serve the public and employees
 - iii. Convert Information Technology wiring to run at 1000mb per second